

COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, January 8, 1982

Present: M. Cohen, Chairman, D. Taddeo, J. Chaikelson, M. Singer, J. Princz, C. Bertrand, C. Campbell, S. Casey, D. Dicks, R. Diubaldo, J. Doyle, H. Fink, K. Kusano, C. Langford, J. Lightstone, J. Macaluso, D. McDougall, S. McEvenue, B. Petrie, H. Proppe, E. Raudsepp, K. Riener, A. Ross, J. Ryan, B. Sahni, O. Schwelb, M. Shames, M. Squires, M. Taylor, P. Thornton, U. Comtois, D. Clark, C. Crawford, K. Macdonald, G. Trudel.

Absent with Regrets: G. Taggart

Guests: M. Baldwin, R. Pallen, H. Hiu, T. Swift, H. Hill

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded (Taddeo/Langford) to approve the agenda as circulated. Vote: Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on December 4, 1981 was put over to the next meeting of Council.

4. Chairman's Remarks

Dean Cohen reported that the University had agreed to lend his services to the Council of Universities to serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee, a post he will take up at the end of January. Dean Taddeo will Chair the remaining meetings of Council until June 1, when the regular rotation will be resumed and Provost Singer will take over as Chairman.

Dr. Breen had wanted to be at the meeting to make a number of announcements, but had been called to attend a meeting at the Université de Québec à Trois Rivières. In his absence Dean Cohen announced that Dr. Pallen had been appointed Acting Dean of Division III, effective January 25, and that the Search Committee for the Appointment of Dean of Division III, since Dean Cohen was no longer a candidate for the position, had extended the deadline for nominations and applications to 1700 hours on January 29.

Requests to hold examinations in the final week of classes, Dean Cohen said, should be submitted to the Deans prior to January

27. He reminded Council that it had been agreed that the lists would not go directly to Council, but be forwarded to the appropriate Dean who would verify that the request satisfied the criteria described at Council.

The Chairman reported that one of the items on the agenda for the February meeting of Council would be nominations for honorary degrees and that names should be submitted to the Steering Committee before January 27.

5. Questions and Announcements

Dean Cohen reported that a reply had been received from Mr. Swift concerning the statistical survey which was being carried out on the number of students who had been admitted to second-choice programmes, and invited Mr. Swift to speak on the matter. The Director of Admissions gave a verbal report on the number of students involved in each category. He said that only one portion of the survey remained to be completed and when that was done he would submit a written report.

6. Elections

- a) The student councillor who was to have presented nominations for student positions was not present at the meeting with the result that elections for the Arts and Science Faculty Panel, four Appraisals Committees, the Study Group on Academic Advising and the Curriculum Committee were postponed to the next meeting.
- b) Study Group on Academic Advising - One Faculty Member

The Steering Committee nominated Prof. Mary-Lou Squires to represent Division III. on the Study Group on Academic Advising.

32-1-2 It was moved and seconded (Doyle/Sahni) to close nominations.
Vote: Carried

Prof. Squires was elected by acclamation to serve on the Study Group on Academic Advising.

7. Consideration of the Resolutions approved by Senate (November 30, 1981) for Council Reaction regarding Competence in Written Expression

The Chairman asked that Prof. Hill, who had made a study of registration in English composition courses, be given speaking privileges. It was so agreed.

It was noted that there is no reference in the resolutions as to the timing of the tests, and it was thought that it was important that the first test should be taken as early as possible after acceptance to the University.

Following a discussion on the type of test that should be set, Prof. Hill gave a short talk on registration in English Composition courses at Concordia which were taken on a voluntary basis.

A paper entitled Report and Recommendations on Composition and Written Skills prepared by Prof. Hill was given to the Chairman but was not circulated.

- 82-1-3 It was moved and seconded (Sahni/Shames) that the Arts and Science Faculty Council supports resolution a) and further suggests that the test be taken by the student as soon as possible after acceptance by the University, and prior to the end of the first term of attendance.

It was moved by Prof. Fink that before any final decision is taken about the nature of the test this assembly be given the opportunity to review.

The motion was not seconded.

- 82-1-4 It was moved and seconded (Langford/Sahni) that consistent with examination of constraints placed by resource concerns this Council recommends that the test be of the form of an essay of five hundred words.

Following discussion of the motion, with the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion was re-phrased to "that this Council recommends that the test be an essay-type test of a length of approximately five hundred words; this recommendation does not preclude various arrangements for administration that will be consistent with available resources".

Questions were raised over the advisability of specifying the length of the essay be it 500, 300, or 200 words. Council was reminded that Prof. Whitelaw's recommendation that the essay be five hundred words in length was based on Prof. Gray's report on which a considerable amount of work and research had been done.

- 82-1-5 It was moved and seconded (Chaikelson/Trudel) to amend the motion to "in line with Prof. Whitelaw's report this Council supports an essay-type test; this recommendation does not preclude various arrangements consistent with administrative constraints".

- 82-1-6 It was moved and seconded (Bertrand/Shames) to strike the second half of the motion.

The question was called on the amendment and was Carried.

A vote was taken on those in favour of calling the question and was Carried.

The question was called on the motion as amended and was Carried.

- 2-1-7 It was moved and seconded (McEvenue/Fink) that when the content and particular manner of testing has been established, Council would like to have the matter referred to it.

It was suggested that it was unwise to insist that matters be referred back to councils continually, and would only serve to delay action. To clarify the intent of the motion Dean Chaikelson asked if it was that Council was concerned over the nature of the test or that it wanted to be consulted about the mechanisms that will be put in place for administering the test. When it was suggested that both positions were intended, Dean Chaikelson replied that the motion did not state that.

Dean Cohen proposed that the motion be re-worded to "that the Arts and Science Faculty is prepared and willing to participate in the design and administration of the test and requests Senate to consult the Arts and Science Faculty Council in these matters". Both Prof. McEvenue and Prof. Fink agreed to the new wording of the motion.

The question was called on the motion as amended and was Carried.

- 32-1-8 It was moved and seconded (Sahni/Shames) that the Arts and Science Faculty Council is in favour of resolution b) i, ii, iii.
Vote: Carried

- 32-1-9 It was moved and seconded (Chaikelson/Trudel) that the Arts and Science Faculty Council recommends to Senate that students who fail the test be urged to undertake remedial activity immediately, and be urged to satisfy the requirements for competence in written expression within eighteen months.
Vote: Carried

The suggestion was made that the phrase "nor communicated to any other party" in the penultimate sentence of resolution a) should be clarified in Senate because it was not clear how restrictive it was meant to be.

8. The consensus of the meeting was that the next item on the agenda, Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on "Exemptions", should be put over to the next session of Council.

Dean Taddeo, on behalf of Council, thanked Dean Cohen for having Chaired Council, for the contribution he has made to Division III, to the Faculty of Arts and Science, and to Concordia University since 1977, and wished him every success in his new endeavor.

9. Next Meeting

February 5, 1982

10. Adjournment

- 32-1-10 The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. (McEvenue/Sahni)